

Members

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair
Rep. Dennie Oxley
Rep. Robert Alderman
Rep. Cleo Duncan
Sen. Kent Adams
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Connie Sipes
Hugh Beebe
Nan Daley
Michael Carmin
Herb Grulke
Donna Ott
Becky Zaseck



INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: July 26, 2000
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair; Rep. Cleo Duncan; Sen. Kent Adams; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Michael Carmin; Herb Grulke; Donna Ott; Becky Zaseck.

Members Absent: Rep. Dennie Oxley; Rep. Robert Alderman; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Connie Sipes; Hugh Beebe; Nan Daley.

I. Call to Order

Representative Summers, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m., and asked Commission members to introduce themselves. She stated that she would like to conduct a roundtable discussion, and that each member should communicate his/her three most important concerns to the Commission. There being no comments, the Chair began the process.

II. Roundtable Ideas

Nan Daley was unable to attend the meeting and present her ideas. However, the Chair asked LSA staff to distribute a letter prepared by Ms. Daley outlining her thoughts and perspectives for the year (Exhibit #1). The Chair covered the main points of Ms. Daley's letter, and indicated a

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need for the following items:

- A report by program administrators regarding the implementation of 1999 legislation which adds autism to the conditions that qualify a child to be served by Indiana Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS).
- A report on the extent to which the 317 Task Force Integration Plan has benefitted individuals with autism during the course of the past year.
- An update on the results of the Indiana Resource Center for the Autism 2000 Needs Assessment Survey.
- Prospective legislation requiring insurance coverage for individuals with autism, and funding to allow individuals on the autism waiver waiting list to receive services.

Regarding the topic of insurance, the Chair stated that the Commission needs to hear from the insurance industry before a remedy can be crafted.

Senator Adams agreed with Ms. Daley's concerns, and added that he would like to look at the possibility of a non-reversion of funds bill regarding monies in the Developmentally Disabled Client Services Account. He stated that he would also be interested in looking at the insurance issue, and would like to have individuals from the insurance industry address the Commission before the legislative session.

Donna Ott indicated to the Commission that she would also be interested in pursuing a non-reversion of funds bill as well as prospective legislation requiring insurance coverage for individuals with autism.

Becky Zaseck stated that autism waiver expansion is important, but would like to see more professional development in order to make the expansion of services effective.

Herb Grulke agreed with Ms. Daley's points regarding autism waiver expansion. After a brief discussion on Medicaid approval and on the problems faced by having multiple waiting lists for services, Mr. Grulke added that he would like to have someone from the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) speak to the Commission regarding these issues.

Michael Carmin concurred that autism waiver expansion is very important, but added that group homes are still an essential component regarding services to individuals with autism.

Representative Duncan also indicated that autism waiver expansion is very important, and added that waiting lists for services do not make sense if the services cannot be provided to the people who need them. She also stated that she would like the Commission to look at early intervention regarding mothers with young autistic children.

Senator Craycraft concurred that the topics addressed in Ms. Daley's letter, and by the Commission, were important items to study during the Commission's work this year.

III. Committee Discussion

At this point, the Chair allowed input from the audience regarding potential topics of study. The following items were discussed briefly by the Commission with audience participation: 1) professional development; 2) autism waiver expansion; 3) waiting list integration and management; 4) wage increases for health care professionals; 5) a recent federal study on waivers including a report on Indiana; and 6) unprofessional field personnel.

The Chair then outlined seven topics of study for the Commission to address this year:

- Non-reversion of funds regarding monies in the Developmentally Disabled Client

- Services Account;
- Insurance coverage for individuals with autism;
- Professional development;
- Group homes;
- Early intervention and education;
- 317 Task Force Integration Plan status; and
- Waiting list reduction through waiver expansion.

The Chair then asked Susan Preble from FSSA to introduce herself, and to speak briefly to several of the topics discussed earlier. Ms. Preble introduced herself, and then stated that FSSA would provide various pieces of information for the next meeting.

There being no further discussion, the Chair set the next meeting for August 28th at 10:00 (room number to be announced). The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.